



# Family News

May 2003

News and Information for Families of individuals at Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital during the transition to community-based services.



Steve Cook

## Transitioning Into The Community

Steve Cook,  
Director,  
Division of  
Disability,  
Aging and  
Rehabilitative  
Services

Every day across Indiana, thousands of people with severe developmental disabilities are thriving as active members of their communities – shopping for groceries, attending concerts, working in jobs – with appropriate support and care.

At the Family and Social Services Administration, we believe the remaining 159 residents at the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center can enjoy just as active a life as part of a community, not an institution. That's why we're committed to working with their families to develop appropriate and high-quality transitions into community settings for their loved ones.

I'm writing to correct some misunderstandings of those transitions.

As part of the state fiscal year 2004-05 budget bill, the Indiana General Assembly voted to reverse a law that allowed parents and guardians of Muscatatuck residents to stop the center from closing by refusing to work with the state in the transition process.

The new law does not mean parents and

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## Secretary Hamilton Responds To Your Questions

**Q** How did FSSA's regional service concept first become a priority for coordinating services?

**A** As you know, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration provides services to children and families, people with disabilities, senior citizens and people who need help with mental health and addiction.

To better integrate the way we help Hoosiers, FSSA is moving to a regional concept, creating a "single service" agency in each of eight regions across the state. The idea is to consolidate and coordinate social services for all individuals and families in the community, giving everyone a single entry point and making it easier to receive a range of services. Regional services are a paradigm shift from central office management and institutional reliance to regional management and community partnerships that create home-based and community-based services for all Hoosiers.

The creation of regional services began with the 1999 State Operated Facilities Report, produced by the Council on State-Operated Care Facilities. Governor Frank O'Bannon charged the council to find ways to provide high-quality, cost-efficient health care for individuals and families with developmental disabilities, mental illness

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guardians have no say in their loved one's future. It means they must help the state plan for an appropriate transition into the community – that we must work together.

The chance to live in a community isn't just a choice for people with disabilities – it's their right. In 1999 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states must work to move people out of institutions and into the most integrated settings possible, giving them the same chance to be part of a community as people with no disabilities.

In transitioning residents from Muscatatuck, the state recognizes that some individuals require more intensive care and services, and we work exhaustively with parents and loved ones to find appropriate settings. The transition process takes up to a year and requires that each step in an 82-page manual be completed before someone can be placed in the community. There are also follow-up services to ensure the placement is successful down the road.

About 125 former Muscatatuck residents have already moved into homes and communities across the state. An independent survey of parents last year by Indiana University found that more than 70 percent believed their loved one was happier in the community – primarily because of the variety of opportunities and new experiences they discovered. Many of those families were originally against moving.

The state of Indiana is committed to helping families find the most appropriate and integrated setting for their loved ones – and ensuring that they thrive in the community. When we work together, parents and guardians can be assured their voice will be heard.

## **Southeast Region Grant Announcement**

FSSA is pleased to announce the availability of grant money for the southeast region of Indiana. The Southeast Regional Planning Council for Home and Community-Based Services has received a \$100,000 one-time federal grant for direct services to individuals and families with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and addictions.

Organizations, counties, communities, councils, and advocates are welcome to submit a Request for Funds (RFF) to Indiana University for approval. To qualify for this one-time grant, you must be located in one of Indiana's 18 southeastern counties (Brown, Bartholomew, Clark, Crawford, Decatur, Dearborn, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Lawrence, Ohio, Orange, Ripley, Scott, Switzerland, and Washington), submit an RFF, and provide an action plan for direct services to individuals and families with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and addictions.

The RFF packet and instructions are available on-line or by mail. RFF's must be submitted and postmarked no later than June 13, 2003. Evaluations and announcement of grant recipients will be completed on or before June 30, 2003.

For more information see the FSSA web site at: [www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/ddars/rff04.html](http://www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/ddars/rff04.html).



## Message From Nikki Morrell

This month I would like to highlight the Southeast Regional Center's Outreach Services. The Manager of Outreach, Judy Sides, has developed a brochure that provides basic information concerning Outreach Services that are available for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, service providers, and targeted case managers. Judy is available at (812) 346-4401.

The four primary functions of Outreach Services are: To provide training, technical assistance, consultation, and a safety net for consumers who cannot obtain needed services in the community. I am pleased with the development of this program, and anticipate great successes for individuals participating. Great work, Judy!



The Arc of Indiana

2003 Convention  
October 8-9, 2003

Appreciation Dinner, October 8  
Annual Meeting, October 9

Adam's Mark Hotel  
Indianapolis - Airport

Hosted by Noble of Indiana

[www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org)

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and addiction at home and in the community.

From this charge, the council produced the State Operated Facilities (SOF) report recommending that the state be broken into eight "service" regions. Each region is to create a planning council made up of community leaders, service providers, individuals, families, Step Ahead councils, hospitals and union representatives to assess services provided by FSSA. The regional council is to identify service strengths and gaps within each region, then recommend how to fill those gaps to strengthen the safety net.

Since the introduction of the SOF report, FSSA has widened the regional net to include all Hoosiers, not just people with developmental disabilities, mental illness and addiction. Our vision is to provide regional services to Hoosiers of all ages and needs by combining the resources of three of FSSA's four service divisions: The Division of Mental Health and Addiction; the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services; and the Division of Family and Children.

**Q** When will other areas of Indiana be regionalized?

**A** We are working to produce an Indiana FSSA Regional Service Plan, which will act as a blueprint for the creation of regional services. At this time, the Northeast Region and Central Region are underway. New members are always welcome to participate.

Regional packets and meeting minutes are available from FSSA upon request. For additional information, call 317-233-4454.

**Keep In Mind**

MSDC/MSH Info Hot Line:  
**800-903-9822**

Div. of Disability, Aging &  
Rehab Services:  
**800-545-7763**

Ombudsman: **800-622-4484**

Div. of Mental Health &  
Addiction:  
**800-901-1133**

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**Future Issues**

- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Your Ideas

We must accept finite disappointment, but  
never lose infinite hope.  
-- *Martin Luther King, Jr*

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